(c) by when it is likely to be announced and implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) A new Transfer/Placement Policy for Group 'A' Officers of Central Boards of Revenue has already been formulated and announced.

(b) The salient features of the aforesaid Transfer/Placement Policy are as follows:

(i) All transfers and postings of Group 'A' officers in CBDT and CBEC shall be effected either by the Placement Committee or on its recommendations;

(ii) A posting policy has been formulated for officers at different levels;

(iii) All stations shall be categorized in three classes and tenure of stay in different classes of stay has been prescribed;

(iv) All posts in a station shall be divided into two categories *viz.* sensitive and non-sensitive;

(v) Guidelines for dealing with different types of compassionate issues have been laid down;

(vi) All annual transfer orders shall be issued by 30th April of that year;

(vii) The transfer guidelines shall not be applicable to the transfer and postings of Chief Commissioners/Director Generals.

(c) The policy has already been announced and shall come into effect from 2004-05.

Pendency of income tax exemption case

1464. SHRI S. AGNIRAJ: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Income Tax Department takes more than a year or two for approval of Income Tax exemption case;

(b) how many cases are pending for more than a year, State-wise;

(c) what are the reasons for this pendency; and

(d) what steps are being taken for approving cases in stipulated time-frames?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) The delay occurs in some cases as the exemption claims need to be varified by the Officers. The exemption also depends on the furnishing of details and evidences by the assessees and their verification by the IT Department.

(b) In view of the large number of exemptions available under the Act and their administration by different authorities, no such centralised data is being maintained.

(c) As per the answer in Part (a) above.

(d) The Department has taken administrative steps to expedite the exemption claims. The officers have been instructed to decide exemption cases within 4 months of the filing of the cases.

FDI in India as compared to China

1465. DR. AKHILESH DAS: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) Whether it is a fact that China attracts seven times more of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI), according to World Investment Report, 2003;

(b) if so, how the FDI in India is compared to that of China during 2001 and 2002;

(c) whether Government have studied the reasons for such a low level of FDIs in India, as compared to China; and

(d) What steps are being taken by Government to improve FDI inflow?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) to (d) Foreign Direct Investment flows to developing countries which stood at US $ 238 Billion in 2000, fell to US$ 205 Billion in 2001 and further to US$ 190 Billion in 2002. FDI flows into India, however, have not gone down in 2002 despite the global trands.